

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01

/070 W

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R 141530Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL PALERMO

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

SECSTATE WASHDC 1848

UNCLAS PALERMO 0454

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT IT

SUBJ: THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY FAILS TO ELECT A PRESIDENT

1. THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HAS POSTPONED ANY DECISION ON THE PRESIDENCY,

ASSEMBLY OFFICERS, OR THE COMPOSITION OF THE MAJORITY.THE ASSEMBLY
WILL RESUME ITS WORK ON JULY 21.IN THE MEANTIME THE SIX PARTIES
OF THE "CONSTITUTIONAL ARC"LIBERALS TO COMMUNISTS-WILL CONTINUE
DISCUSSION TO TRY TO REACH SOEME STRONG AGREEMENTS.

2. THE POSTPONEMENT CAME JUST BEFORE AN UNWANTED VOTE ON THE
PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY.MOST PEOPLE REALIZED THAT SUCH A VOTE
WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN AN UNWIEDLY SPLIT IN THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES
IN A TIME IN WHICH COHESION IS MORE DESIRABLE THAN DIVISION.

3. THERE ARE MANY REASONS FOR THE IRRESOLVABILITY OF THE SICILIAN
POLITICAL SITUATION.SOME OF THESE HAD BEEN PATCHED OVER OR
COMPROMISED.THE FINAL UNCRACKABLE NUT WAS THE UNWILLINGNESS OF
THE SOCIALISTS AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS TO ACCEPT A PERMANENT
CHANGE IN THE TENURE OF THE PRESIDENT: REDUCING IT FROM FIVE
TO TWO AND A HALF YEARS.THIS WOULD ALLOW BOTH A CHRISTINAN DEMOCRAT
AND A COMMUNIST TO BE PRESIDENT DURING THIS LEGISLATURE.
SUCH A FORMULA, THE SOCIALISTS BELIEVE, MERELY DEVIDES THE SPOLS
BETWEEN THE SUPER-PARTIES(DC AND PCI) UND SUQEEZED THE PSI OUT
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OF ANY ROLE IN THE ASSEMBLE.STRANGELY ENOU,THE PROPOSALS WAS

SUPPORTED BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE LEGISLATURE (DC PCI,PRI,PLI) AND YET RESULTED IN NO ACTION.THE SOCIALISTS HAD COUNTERED THIS POSITION WITH ONE PROPOSING THE NOMINATION OF COMMUNIST PRESIDENT,BUT FOR FIVE YEARS.
COMMENT:

4. IT IS INTERSTING TO NOTE THE WEAKNESS OF THE PARTY OF RELATIVE MAJORITY IN SPITE OF AN OVEWHELMING DC NUMERICAL VICTORY IN THE ASSEMBLY.
WITH 39 OF THE 46 VOTES NECESSARY TO ELECT A PRESIDENT,THE DC SHOULD BE IN A POSITION OF ABSOLUTE STRENGHT.YET,WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THE LEFT WITH 23 PCI, 10 PSI AND TWO PSDI VOTES,THE SHADOW ERECTEDBY THE DC AFTER THE JUNE 20 VOTE. A MERE REPEAT OF THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY FIASCO (SSE PALERMO 0439)
WHEN SIX CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS VOTES WITH THE "OPPOSITION"
COULD SHIFT THE BALANCE OF POWER IN FAVOUR OF THE LEFT PARTIES AT THE REGION.CHIAVARINI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PALERM00454
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760272-0359
From: PALERMO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760759/aaaacaax.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schaeafaj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAY 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <28 SEP 2004 by schaeafaj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY FAILS TO ELECT A PRESIDENT
TAGS: PINT, IT
To: ROME STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006